



ThePulse

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

Maiden Erleigh School | 81 Crescent Road | Reading RG31 5SL | T. 0118 966 8065 | www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk | @MESReading

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the first edition of The Pulse for this academic year. We have been delighted to welcome all students back without some of the restrictions and necessary measures forced onto us last year. It has been good to feel a sense of normality and, while recently we have had to reintroduce some safety measures, we hope that our journey towards "normal" continues to move forward.

At the heart of all we do at school is education and care for our students so that they leave the school with the best qualifications and opportunities ahead of them. We were very proud of the results that our students achieved in their summer qualifications – you can read more about these below – and for the many opportunities our young people are now following in further education, school sixth forms and other apprenticeship and training opportunities.

Learning, however, doesn't only happen in lesson but across the school in many different ways. We want our young people not only to have a deep knowledge of curriculum subjects, but also to develop their character and become fine upstanding young adults ready to take their place as productive and positive members of society. That's why some of the programmes and activities within our extra-curriculum programme featured in this issue of the Pulse are so important.

The last phase of the half term has seen a marked increase in COVID cases across the school community (and in schools across the country) It is a reminder that the pandemic is far from over. So please keep safe over the holiday and follow sensible safety measures. I hope you have a restful break.



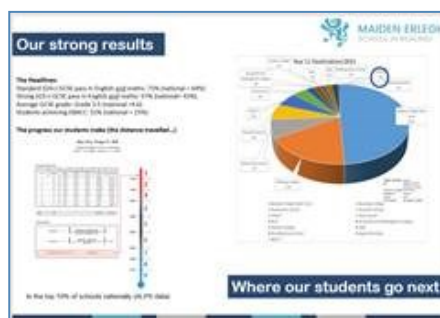
CALENDAR

25 - 29 October	HALF TERM
11 November	Cultural Diversity Day
15 November	Staff Professional Development Day (school closed for students)
25 November	Year 7 & 8 Harry Potter Studios Trip
9 December	Year 11 GCSE Presentation Evening
15 December	Year 10 & 11 A Christmas Carol Theatre Trip

Summer Success

We were delighted with this summer's set of qualification results. So many of our departing year 11 students performed brilliantly in what were very difficult circumstances. We were very proud of the way that the year group confronted uncertainty and overcame the disruption to their learning to show such strong evidence of the grades they were working at.

We can be proud because we know that the assessment process was so rigorous and fair. We were also delighted that one of the measures of our success put the school in the top 10% of schools for the progress that our students make from their joining the school through to their final exams. As a result, all of our students secured a place on a 16-19 programme of study at local schools in area or at one of the further education colleges. Congratulations!



SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION

Olivia!
by Malcolm Smeaton

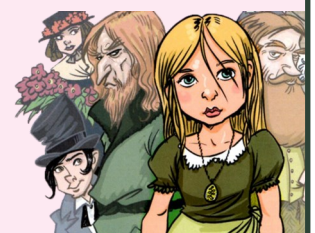
A female Oliver!

We are delighted to announce that Maiden Erleigh School in Reading will be hosting a School Musical this academic year on **Thursday 10 February 2022**.

We would like to encourage as many students as possible to audition for a part in this exciting production. Any students that would like to participate, please come to a meeting in the **Drama Studio** for 20 minutes **after school on Tuesday 2 November** to find out more.

Please note that if students choose to audition, they must commit to the full rehearsal schedule to make this a success.

Mr Butchers
& Mr Sparks



Combined Cadet Force Agreement

At the start of this term we began a venture to become a Combined Cadet Force Contingent in partnership with UTC reading. I very pleased to say that we are now a fully fledged provider of this very successful programme. This will have a huge benefit to our young people, but also further strengthen our community links with UTC as a partnership school.

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is a youth organisation in the United Kingdom, sponsored by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), which operates in schools. Its aim is to "provide a disciplined organisation in a school so that pupils may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness,



endurance and perseverance".

There are CCF contingents in over 400 secondary schools all over the UK, offering young people a broad range of challenging, exciting, adventurous and educational activities. Our aim is to enable the development of personal responsibility, leadership and self-discipline. Each CCF is an educational partnership between the school and the Ministry of Defence, and a CCF may include Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army or Royal Air Force sections.

Students parade twice a week after school on a



Wednesday and Thursday with a variety of extra-curricular trips and further opportunities going on outside the curriculum throughout the year. We currently have over 70 students signed up to the programme and we are confident that these numbers will continue to grow throughout the year.



Battle of the Persuaders 2021

On Friday, my Year 8 class participated in a class debate, captioned, 'Battle of the Persuaders 2021'.

It was an absolute success! The students were amazing and they have really impressed the judges. They have worked very hard to demonstrate the knowledge and skills learned. I commend them for that!

The categories were prepared speech and impromptu speech.

Congratulations to all students especially Amabella and Sonia, the winners.

A huge thank you to the excellent judges who did a brilliant job. Attached are some highlights from the event.

Mrs Thompson-Delpleche



Anti-bullying Quality Mark - Silver



The school is delighted to have been awarded the Anti-Bullying Quality Mark – Silver. This is a prestigious award only made following a rigorous audit, development and assessment cycle against exacting standards and criteria. This is what ABQM-UK <https://www.abqm-uk.com/> said about their award to us.

The Anti-Bullying Quality Mark is a national scheme which shows how good schools are at preventing bullying. It challenges schools to set up effective and sustainable anti-bullying policies and strategies and make them part of their everyday life.

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading achieved the ABQM-UK Silver Award because staff, pupils and parents and Governors demonstrated that anti-bullying has become embedded in everyday life at the school. Students are actively involved in the development of anti-bullying in the school, working alongside staff to establish a range of approaches that make their peers feel safe and included.

We would like to congratulate Miss Burns for her coordination of this achievement, as well as colleagues, governors, pupils and parents for their hard work. We hope that the Silver award recognises their efforts and inspires them to continue to strengthen their anti-bullying policy and practice.

Of course, we will not rest on our laurels! We will continue to look for ways to support this work to ensure that our school continues to take bullying seriously and to address it in effective and impactful ways.

Mr Johnson

Food Technology

Cheesecakes

The year 9 Food Preparation and Nutrition students have excelled yet again in their final practical of making exquisite cheesecakes! They worked extremely hard researching the perfect cheesecake recipe and clearly demonstrated magnificent decoration and presentation skills. I am extremely proud of how hard the year 9's have worked this year and I am very excited to see what other excellent results they produce in the next couple of years in Food Technology.'

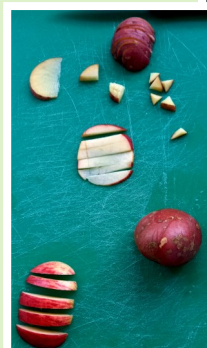
Miss Frost



Chopping Methods

The year 7 Food Technology students were recently tasked with a knife safety challenge in their practical lesson. The students were asked to bring in a variety of different fruits and vegetables to demonstrate two knife chopping methods known as 'The Bridge Hold' and 'The Claw Grip'. Alongside fantastic knife skills, the year 7's were also hugely successful in demonstrating great knife safety and hygiene.

Miss Frost



Cheese-based Dishes

The year 10 Food Technology class had the task of researching a 'cheese-based dish' for their first practical. Not only did they have to find a recipe containing cheese, they also had to think about time, skills, techniques and presentation. This was their first practical of the academic year and they were extremely successful.

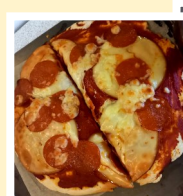
Miss Frost



Pizza

The year 9 Food technology students did a great job at making pizzas in a recent practical lesson. The students had the task of researching their own pizza recipe, choosing their own flour and delicious toppings which included a variety of different cheeses, meats and vegetables. The end result was extremely impressive!

Miss Frost

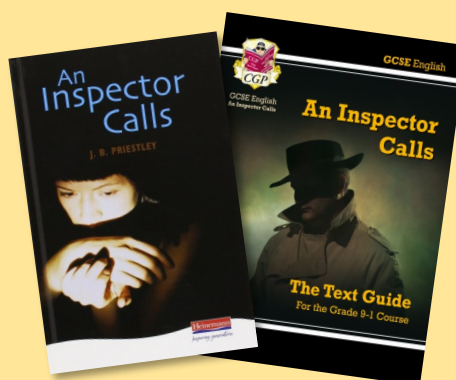


Buying Set GCSE English Literature Texts – Years 9, 10, 11 – Parent Pay Online Bookshop

You are probably aware that we ask students to buy their own copies of our 3 set GCSE literature texts – *Macbeth*, *An Inspector Calls* and *A Christmas Carol*. The fourth text, a poetry anthology, is provided free to students by the exam board – Edexcel. We encourage students to buy their own books because they like to annotate them with notes from class which makes them unusable for future students. To make it easier for students to buy their books, we now have an online Parent Pay Bookshop where you can drop one of the set texts into your basket at any time. Once you have paid for the books, it will be delivered to your son/ daughter at the end of the week by their form tutor. There are also revision guides available to complement the set texts.

Any student who is in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding can apply for assistance with the cost of the books if needed – just email the office on meroffice@amidenerleghtrust.org to request this funding via your child's Pupil Premium Champion.

The link to the bookshop can be reached through the school website [Parent pay](#) Mrs Escott-New



Year 7

I am very excited to be “Team Year 7”

I have been so proud with how you have started secondary school. It is a new start with a new school, new teachers and new friends. As a year group we aim to have high expectations and strive for the best behaviour for learning - You are doing really well, keep it up.

This half term we have learnt how to line up for assembly, how to do a fire drill, how to get lunch using our pin, how to get changed in the changing rooms for PE, how to log onto the computer and Google Classroom. All key skills for the next 5 years of your time at school.



Our aim for next half term is to make sure these things are perfect!

I am looking forward to getting to know you all over the next year. For the first half term, you have made me an incredibly proud head of year.

Have a lovely half term.
Miss Hancock

Extra-Curricular Activities

We are pleased to be able to offer a wide range of enrichment activities. These clubs are designed to work alongside our curriculum and studies have shown that the benefits of extra-curricular activities are wide-ranging. Students develop a greater sense of responsibility, learn new skills, benefit from improved organisation & time management and even attain higher academic achievement.



The activities are run by our staff free of charge and we would be delighted to welcome your child to any of the clubs on offer to them.



Extra Curricular Activities (from 10th October 2021)



Activity	Day	Staff	Room	Time
Homework Club	Monday to Thursday	Various	21B	3pm – 4pm
Year 7 & 8 Drama Club	Mondays	SP	Studio	3pm – 3.45pm
Boys Rugby Club	Tuesday	WGA / BA / HD	Field	3pm – 4pm
Girls Football Club	Tuesday	RR / WL	Field	3pm – 4pm
Library Club	Tuesday	NEW / MCE	108	3pm – 4pm
GCSE Art & Photography	Tuesday	JR	206 & 207	3pm – 4.30pm
Choir	Tuesday	BB	044	3pm – 3.40pm
Band	Wednesday	BB	Ensemble	3pm – 3.40pm
2BMe Discussion Club	Wednesday	CH	217	3pm – 3.45pm
So you want to be a Doctor?	Wednesday	ROE	216	3.10pm – 4pm
STEAM / Teen Tech	Wednesday	BF	235	3pm – 4pm
Combined Cadet Force	Wednesday & Thursday	SC / GN	Sports Hall	3pm – 4pm
Y7 & 8 Art Club	Thursday	BTN	207	3pm – 3.45pm
Activity		Details		
Monday Lunchtime Knitting Club		Mrs Matheson		
Online “FrostBites” Culinary Challenges		Miss Frost		

More clubs to follow in the coming weeks

THE RASPBERRY PI

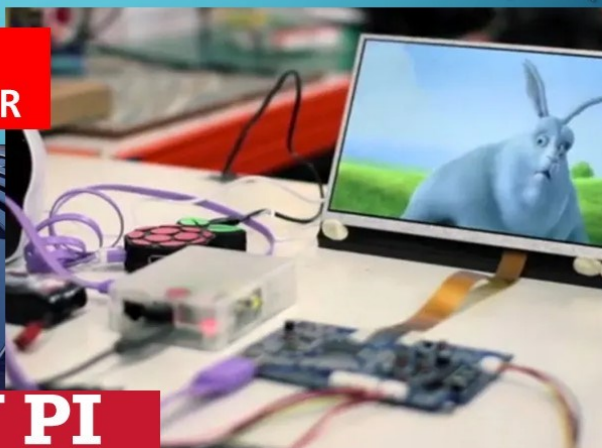
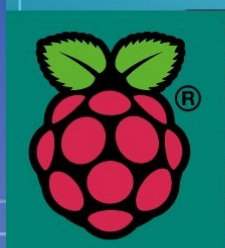
DO YOU WANT TO DESIGN A GAME?
DO YOU WANT TO BE A MAZE RUNNER??

THEN HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU
TO TRY YOUR HANDS ON THE MINI-COMPUTER
WHICH DOES THE MAGIC!

Silver and Gold
programme
students..

WHERE: ROOM 123

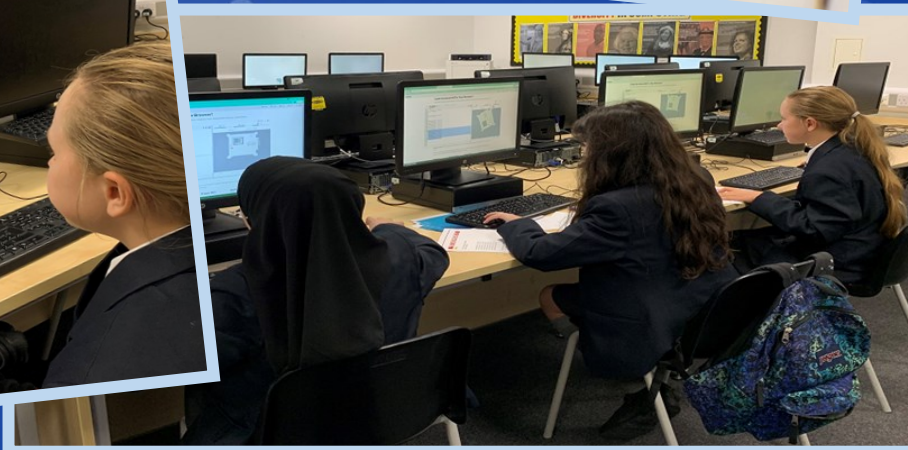
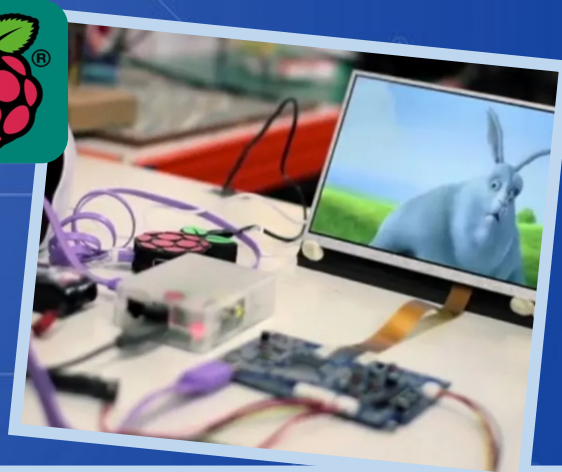
WHEN: TUESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER



THE RASPBERRY PI

Year 8 Silver and Gold programme students enjoyed programming using Raspberry Pi (The mini-computer) in after-school coding club conducted by Mrs Neethirajan.

They used their Python coding and designing skills to create emojis and display messages on Sense HAT add-on board (which was made especially for the Astro Pi mission launched to the International Space Station in December 2015!).



Year 11

Well, Year 11 have had quite a start to the year. The year group have hit the ground running this term with lots of different GCSE preparation, career, and destinations work already completed. The year group started the term with a session from Elevate Education on preparing for exams which was really beneficial for the students, and received great feedback. This, along with the PSMSC sessions focusing on exam preparation, are great tools to prepare the students for their upcoming PPEs in November. Destinations work has also been going full steam ahead with multiple assemblies by guests such as Reading College and another assembly on UCAS. The year group also took part in their Careers days in September, which were organised by EBP with visitors from the healthcare, utilities and pharmaceuticals industries. During these sessions they offered, amongst other sessions, an individual virtual interview for every student with a business professional, which is great preparation for the future. We have lots more destinations assemblies coming up as we approach all of the sixth form and college open evenings and I would encourage you to ensure that your child is participating in as many



of these as possible to help them with their decision making.

We have also had our Year 11 Parent Information Evening and it was brilliant to see so many parents present for this – the final one for my year group which I can't quite believe. I know there was lots of information during this session and I want to take this time to remind you that this PowerPoint is available on the school website.

Next term there will be more revision corridors to prepare for PPEs and further assemblies from visiting sixth forms and colleges, as well as the students starting to complete their own destinations applications themselves at home meaning that tutors will begin completing their references soon.

We are approaching the end of our journey together, but we are certainly making the most of it and packing it full of opportunities for Year 11!

Miss Davies



Air Quality Monitoring Opportunity



I am a University of Reading PhD research student (and mother of two primary school children) working on a project to understand the levels and sources of ambient air pollution inside/around our local schools, particularly during the school drop off and pick up times.

The aim is to identify the local hot spots of air pollution that are not picked up by any existing air quality monitoring. Based on this research, advice will be offered to schools and some specific policy changes proposed, with the goal of improving the air quality around those schools.

This research is carried out in the School of Geography and Environmental Science at the University of Reading with support from Reading Council, Brighter Future for Children and the John Sykes Foundation. I would like to invite parents to participate in this survey - with an opportunity to take part in the monitoring and/or an interview.

If you would like to take part please follow the link here: www.shorturl.at/kqzKX

Many thanks.

Marta O'Brien

PhD research student (School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Reading)

European Day of Languages

The Modern Foreign Languages Department, and the whole Europe, celebrated the European Day of Languages on September 26th. This celebration intends to raise awareness on the importance of language learning, diversity and the range of languages learned in order to increase plurilingualism and intercultural understanding, to promote the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe, and to encourage lifelong language learning in and out of school. In order to celebrate it, in MER we run a photo competition in which students and staff were challenged to submit a photo from any landmarks, dishes, events, objects or traditions that for them had a connection with linguistic and cultural diversity.

Congratulations to the winners. Thank you everyone for sharing your pictures and your cultural roots/interests!

Miss Bruna Pividal



1ST PLACE
KAYVA Year 8

2ND PLACE
NOAH Year 9



3RD PLACE
DENICIJA Year 7



4TH PLACE
ATTILA Year 11



Year 10



Every 'Welcome Back' assembly is a surreal moment, when you are addressed as being yet another year higher up the school. But Year 9 went by in a flash and now here we are. Year 10 have come back with the determination to catch up on what was arguably one of the biggest losses last year – sports clubs. There have been an impressive number of Year 10 students out at training and fixtures (rugby for the boys and football for the girls) and I am very proud as a PE teacher and their Head of Year to see the commitment, determination and excellent leadership they have to offer on their big comeback to extra-curricular activities. A special mention must go to Xav for stepping into the role of the U16 girls Football Coach. He has made valuable contributions to our school teams already this year. I would also like to welcome the new students in Year 10 who have made positive impressions amongst our staff already and a big thank you to our school community for making them feel so welcome.

Miss Wildman

Black History MONTH

October is Black History Month and we have been using this as an opportunity to celebrate and raise the profile of significant black figures and to celebrate their achievements. The senior student leadership team has been championing and leading our work on this. We have also been considering afresh how our school curriculum might grow and develop so that it is more inclusive of our wide and diverse cultural mix in the school. Ultimately, we want to promote cohesion and understanding whilst celebrating the distinctive cultures across our community. Black History Month has been a fantastic opportunity to do just that.

School Street Scheme



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are very excited that our school street initiative has progressed to the point that we are nearly ready to launch. The scheme will see Crescent Road closed to through traffic for 45 mins at the beginning and end of the school day. This will hugely improve safety for students arriving and leaving school. All of the necessary approvals have been made and legal measures now put in place. We had hoped to launch on the 1st November. However, we have had to

delay as we still need to secure enough volunteers to act as marshals over the closure periods. Marshals will man the barriers and escort the vehicles of our neighbours if they require access or need to leave during the closure period. The role will also require training which is likely to take around 2.5 hours. If you would be interested in volunteering to act as a marshal for the scheme, please contact the school.

Mr Johnson

Headteacher's Update

Have you managed to watch one of our new weekly Headteacher's Updates yet? As part of our efforts to improve our communication with you about what is happening in school, Mr Johnson is recording short update videos for members of the school community, usually published on a Friday afternoon. From the number of "hits" the recordings are receiving, they seem to be going down well. Please do let us know what you think – too short? too long? too brief? too

Headteacher's Update

Mr Johnson – 15th October 2021



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

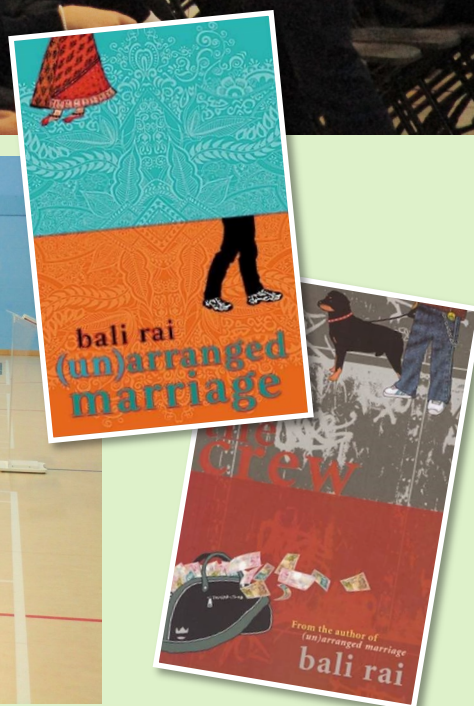


detailed? and... do you prefer seeing Mr Johnson talking to you or would you rather just hear his voice (no offence will be taken!)? Why not drop the office an email to let us know – just put HT update in the subject line.



Visit by Writer Bali Rai

Last month we excitingly had the writer Bali Rai visiting MeSiR! Bali has published a number of successful books for teenagers and he came to speak to Y9 and Y10 about his experience of growing up as a young person in multicultural Leicester. Bali is known for discussing some of the harsh realities of growing up and spoke to students about his experiences of both racism and communities coming together. Students enjoyed the talks and the opportunity to ask questions to Bali who was open and honest about his experiences, challenging students to look beyond preconceived ideas and resist stereotypes. Thank you Bali!



Facilities Hire

Our fantastic school facilities are available for hire to the general public. For information on lettings for the next academic year please contact the school.

TERM DATES

Autumn

1 September -
22 October 2021

1 November -
17 December 2021

CPD Day

15 November 2021



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



Click [here](#) to find a list of
after school clubs

Click on envelope
to view recent
communications



Click on the
ParentPay
logo to login and
register
your account.



Parent App -

Please contact us at
parentapp@maidenerleghschool.co.uk
for support.